



# Fiji

## Who we are

The Zurich Climate Resilience Alliance works with communities to influence policies and practices which enhance resilience to climate hazards.

## Our definition of resilience

**The Zurich Climate Resilience Alliance understands the concept of climate resilience as:** The ability of a system, community, or society to pursue its social, ecological and economic development and growth objectives, while managing its climate risks over time in a mutually reinforcing way.

## Our vision

Our vision is a world where communities are resilient to climate hazards, enabling them to thrive.

## Our goal

By 2035, alongside like-minded organizations, we aspire to positively impact 70 million people vulnerable to climate change, and 5.5 million by 2027.

Alliance partners working in Fiji:

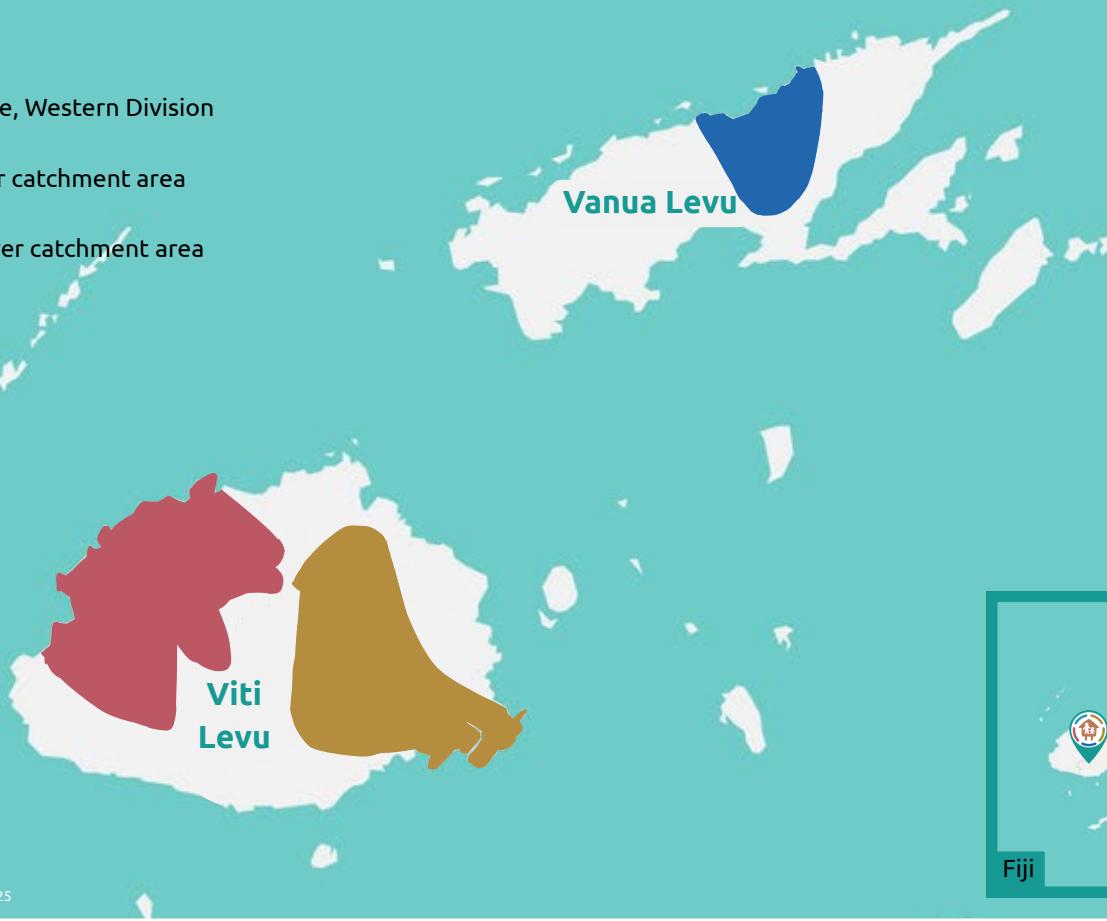


Find out more about the Alliance's work in Fiji 

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**KEY:**

- Ba Province, Western Division
- Rewa River catchment area
- Labasa River catchment area



## Impact of floods and storms in Fiji

Flooding is the most recurrent hazard in Fiji. Excessive rainfall events, including tropical cyclones and depressions, cause floods that impact communities across the country. This vulnerability is further exacerbated by the need to enhance watershed management, develop urban planning, address deforestation, modernise farming practices, invest in early warning systems and protocols, improve cross-sectoral engagement, and further grow the institutional capacity to prepare and respond to extreme events. Projections for the Pacific, particularly for rainfall, are uncertain especially those related to the intensity and frequency of days of extreme rainfall, however an increase in the intensity of tropical cyclones and greater coastal inundation due to sea level rise are expected to varying degrees.

Over 12 years, the Zurich Climate Resilience Alliance in Fiji proposes targeted resilience work in three areas: Ba Province in the Western Division, the Rewa River catchment area near Suva, and the Labasa River catchment area around the town of Labasa on Vanua Levu, Fiji's second largest island. This includes coastal and inland towns, and both urban and rural contexts. Flash, river, and coastal flooding are frequent during the wet summer season (from December to May), during tropical storms and cyclones (from November to May),

and during La Niña periods. Floods have a significant impact on communities in Fiji including loss of life and livelihoods, as well as affecting access to education, healthcare and disrupting transport routes and industry, such as farming activities including sugar cane production, and tourism. Lessons learned in Fiji will be used to replicate best practice and to scale up influence across Samoa, Tonga, Solomon Islands, and Kiribati, four of the countries which are part of International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) Pacific Country Cluster Delegation, and also the Early Warning for All (EW4All) initiative in the Pacific.





Category 5 Tropical Cyclone Harold, April 2020. Photo: Fiji Red Cross Society

## Alliance partners working in Fiji

The Fiji Red Cross Society (FRCS), together with the IFRC, forms part of the Zurich Climate Resilience Alliance.

The FRCS is a trusted humanitarian organization with over 50 years of experience supporting vulnerable communities across Fiji. Recognized as an auxiliary to the Fijian government, the FRCS plays a key role in disaster preparedness, response, and recovery. This unique legal mandate ensures the inclusion and participation of the FRCS at the highest level of national disaster planning and preparation. The FRCS has a presence all around the country, with a network of 16 branches and over 500 volunteers, ensuring a local presence that provides a strong understanding of local contexts and priorities.

The IFRC is the world's largest humanitarian network, reaching 150 million people in 191 countries. Together with the IFRC, the FRCS has a solid track record of working at national and regional levels. It has experience in multi-sectoral co-ordination between communities and local and national government agencies and ministries. Scaling and influencing opportunities can be leveraged through participation, and in some cases leadership, in the National Disaster Management Office, the Fiji Cluster System, the Early Warnings for All initiative, and the Pacific Resilience Partnership.

## Alliance objectives in Fiji

As part of the Zurich Climate Resilience Alliance, the FRCS, together with the IFRC, aims to target three areas of systemic change:



**Strengthening early warning systems**  
so that flood early warning messages and information are localized, action-based, and locally led.



**Increasing community resilience** to river floods and coastal surges through nature-based solutions.



**Supporting greater resilience** to river floods and coastal surges through strengthened risk governance, policies, and regulatory frameworks.



Flash flooding in Nadi, April 2016. Photo: Fiji Red Cross Society

## The communities we are working with

As part of the Zurich Climate Resilience Alliance, the FRCS, together with the IFRC, aims to enhance community resilience to floods and storms through local engagement and capacity building. Guided by seven Fundamental Principles and robust protection, gender, and inclusion policies and procedures, the programme prioritizes dignity, access, participation, and safety for all, taking targeted measures to address diverse



### Climate Resilience Measurement for Communities (CRMC)

The Climate Resilience Measurement for Communities (CRMC) is a data-driven process, complemented by a web-based tool and mobile app, which helps communities to evaluate and measure how resilient they are to climate hazards. Using the results, they can identify and implement resilience-building interventions and run additional measurements to track improvements.

Find out more: [ZCRAlliance.org/crmc](https://ZCRAlliance.org/crmc)

needs and risks considering gender, age, cultural or language differences, and other factors. It seeks to ensure equitable outcomes for identified communities while leveraging experiences, lessons learned, and evidence to scale and influence policies at subnational, national, and regional levels.

Over 12 years, the Alliance programme will operate in three high-risk areas in Fiji: Ba Province, the Rewa River



Families receive relief items following Tropical Cyclone Harold, Namosi, April 2020. Photo: Fiji Red Cross Society

catchment near Suva, and the Labasa River catchment. These areas are home to approximately 300,000 people – one-third of Fiji's population – and are particularly vulnerable to river flooding, storm surges, and tropical cyclones. Informal settlements face heightened risks due to challenges related to, for example, access to urban services, improper drainage as well as land management complexities. The programme, implemented in phases, will begin with six communities and two urban centers in Ba Province.



Fiji Red Cross teams in action following Tropical Cyclone Harold, April 2020. Photo: Fiji Red Cross Society

## Duration of the Fiji Zurich Climate Resilience Alliance programme: July 2024 – December 2027

### The Alliance website

- Our website shares practical knowledge alongside the latest evidence and research about how to build community resilience to climate hazards.
- We share knowledge generated through the Zurich Climate Resilience Alliance's work across the world, as well as from many other sources of evidence.

Find out more: [ZCRAlliance.org](https://ZCRAlliance.org)

### Contact

If you have any questions, contact:  
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For more information, visit  
[ZCRAlliance.org/countries/fiji](https://ZCRAlliance.org/countries/fiji)

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**The Zurich Climate Resilience Alliance** is a multi-sectoral partnership, powered by the Z Zurich Foundation, focused on enhancing resilience to climate hazards in both rural and urban communities. By implementing solutions, promoting good practice, influencing policy and facilitating systemic change, we aim to ensure that all communities facing climate hazards are able to thrive. [Find out more at ZCRAlliance.org](https://ZCRAlliance.org)

In partnership with:



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